

Amendment to and Listing of the Claims:

Please cancel claims 2, 7-14 and 16 without prejudice. Please amend claims 1, 3-6, 15 and 17-20, wherein strikethrough indicates a deletion and underline indicates an addition, as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A microfluidic component comprising a laminated assembly comprising a substrate and a top plate, where the substrate and the top plate define therebetween ~~minimum of one~~ a first collection chamber having a pump disposed therein, ~~and a minimum of at least two connection channels connected to the minimum of one first collection chamber, and at least two valves, each valve located within one of the at least two connection channels.~~

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The microfluidic component of claim 1 further comprising a ~~minimum of two additional separated~~ at least two additional collection chambers defined between the substrate and the top plate ~~one each, each of the additional collection chambers being connected to one of the connection channels at an end of each of the minimum of two connection channels~~ opposite the ~~minimum of one first~~ collection chamber.

4. (Currently Amended) The microfluidic component of claim 1 wherein the ~~minimum of at least~~ two connection channels is four connection channels.

5. (Currently Amended) The microfluidic component of claim 4 wherein the four connection channels are each connected to a second, third, fourth and fifth ~~four additional separated~~ collection chamber[s] respectively, the second, third, fourth and fifth ~~four additional separated collection chambers~~ defined between the substrate and the top plate.

6. (Currently Amended) The microfluidic component of claim 1 wherein the ~~minimum of at least~~ two connection channels is at least four connection channels.

7-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a microfluidic component comprising:

providing a microfluidic component comprising a laminated assembly comprising a substrate and a top plate, where the substrate and the top plate define therebetween ~~minimum of one~~ a first collection chamber having a pump disposed therein, ~~and a minimum of at least two~~

connection channels connected to the ~~minimum of one~~ first collection chamber, and at least two valves, each valve located within one of the at least two connection channels;

introducing a fluid into the ~~minimum of one~~ first collection chamber; and

pumping the fluid from the ~~minimum of one~~ first collection chamber into the ~~minimum of~~ at least two connection channels.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the microfluidic component further comprises a ~~minimum of two additional separated~~ at least two additional collection chambers defined between the substrate and the top plate ~~one each, each of the additional collection chambers being~~ connected to one of the connection channels at an end ~~of each of the minimum of two connection channels~~ opposite the ~~minimum of one~~ first collection chamber.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the ~~minimum of~~ at least two connection channels is four connection channels.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18 wherein the four connection channels are each connected to a second, third, fourth and fifth ~~four additional separated~~ collection chamber[s] respectively, the second, third, fourth and fifth ~~four additional separated collection chambers~~ defined between the substrate and the top plate.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the ~~minimum of~~ at least two connection channels is at least four connection channels.